

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7772
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 2364

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LE, PLO
SUBJECT: FARUQ QUDDUMI ON SOUTH LEBANON

1. SUMMARY. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIE. IN AN INTERVIEW CARRIED
IN APRIL 17 ISSUE OF WEEKLY MONDAY MORNING, FARUQ QADDUMI
CHIEF OF THE PLO'S POLITICAL DEPARTMENT: A) SAID THAT THE
PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE WOULD BE DUTY BOUND TO FIGHT THE
ISRAELIS AS LONG AS THEY REMAINED IN LEBANON; B) SAID THAT
THE PLO WOULD CONCLUDE THAT UNIFIL WAS NOT CARRYING OUT
SECURITY CONCIL RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426, IF IT DID NOT TAKE
OVER POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY THE ISRAELIS IN LEBANON; C)
IMPLIED THAT THE CAIRO AGREEMENT MIGHT BE OPEN TO
RENEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE PLO AND GOL AFTER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL;
D) AFFIRMED THAT SOME "ARAB AND PALESTINIAN"
VOLUNTEERS HAD COME TO LEBANON DURING THE ISRAELI
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INVASION, BUT ASSERTED THAT ALL WOULD LEAVE AFTER THE
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW OF FARUQ
QADDUMI (ABU LUTF), CHIEF OF THE PLO'S POLITICAL
DEPARTMENT, CARRIED IN THE APRIL 17 EDITION OF THE
WEEKLY MONDAY MORNING:

A. "IT IS KNOWN THAT THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE HAS BEEN PRESENT IN SOUTH LEBANON FOR A LONG TIME, BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN CROSSING THE LEBANESE BORDERS TO UNDERTAKE ANY ACTION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. OUR

OPERATIONS THERE STEM FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ISRAELI PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON WILL SPUR US TO GREATER EFFORTS TO FIGHT ISRAEL -- ON THE LEBANESE FRONT NOW. ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON, HOWEVER, WOULD PROMPT US TO CHANGE OUR TACTICS AND METHODS IN OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAELI FORCES INSIDE THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. BUT AS LONG AS THEY ARE PRESENT IN SOUTH LEBANON, WE WILL FIGHT THEM THERE, BECAUSE WE VALUE THE SECURITY, INDEPENDENCE AND UNITY OF LEBANON....

B. "RESOLUTION 425 PROVIDES FOR AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY. IF THE ISRAELI FORCES DO NOT WITHDRAW, WE ARE NOT BOUND BY ANY COMMITMENT NOT TO FIGHT ISRAEL ON LEBANESE LAND. IF THE ISRAELI FORCES DO WITHDRAW, WE WILL, AS I SAID BEFORE, CONTINUE TO FIGHT INSIDE THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY, AS IN THE PAST....

C. "ISRAEL MUST IMPLEMENT THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. AND IF, AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL, THE
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INTERNATIONAL FORCES DO NOT TAKE OVER THE AREAS WHICH WERE OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL, THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE INTERNATIONAL FORCES' PURPOSE IN COMING HERE DIFFERS FROM THE PURPOSE CITED BY SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426. THIS, TOO, WOULD RELEASE US FROM ANY COMMITMENT....

D. "WE NEVER ACCEPTED THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, BUT CERTAIN ARAB QUARTERS, LED BY LEBANON, DID ACCEPT THEM AND ARE THEREFORE RESPONSIBLE....

E. "WE HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID THAT WE ARE FOR THE SECURITY, INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL UNITY OF LEBANON. WE ARE WILLING TO OFFER EVERYTHING WE CAN TO FACILITATE NATIONAL ACCORD IN LEBANON. BUT WE STILL HEAR PEOPLE MAKING REPEATED STATEMENTS WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, CAST PALESTINIAN PRESENCE AS THE BASIC ISSUE, WHICH IS NOT TRUE....

F. "AMENDMENT OF THE CAIRO ACCORD IS POSSIBLE BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED. WE HAVE ALWAYS COOPERATED WITH THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES...TOP

PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO ACHIEVING COORDINATION
BETWEEN ALL PARTIES TOWARD ELIMINATION OF THE (ISRAELI)
OCCUPATION. AFTER THAT, IT IS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS ANY
MATTER THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES WISH TO DISCUSS....

G. "ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SOUTH WILL
REDUCE THE ARMED PRESENCE OF THE VOLUNTEERS. ALL THE
VOLUNTEERS, BE THEY PALESTINIAN OR ARAB, WILL RETURN TO
THE AREAS FROM WHICH THEY CAME -- OUTSIDE LEBANON -- WHEN
ISRAEL WITHDRAWS...SOME OF THE ARE (STILL IN LEBANON). OTHERS
HAVE LEFT, THOSE WHO HAVE REMAINED WILL ALSO LEAVE WHEN
ISRAEL WITHDRAWS, BECAUSE THEIR MISSION IS A TEMPORARY ONE....

H. "WE ARE ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT THAT SYRIA STANDS
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BEHIND US WITH ALL ITS CAPABILITIES. HOWEVER, SYRIA
MUST NEVER BE DRAGGED INTO A BATTLE IT HAS NOT PLANNED....

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 2364

I. "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE US-SOVIET STATEMENT WAS A FAVORABLE INDICATOR REGARDING THE AMERICAN POSITION, SINCE IT MENTIONED, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AMERICAN RECOGNITION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND REPRESENTATIVES. AMERICA'S RETREAT FROM THAT POSITION, IN OUR OPINION, IS A RETREAT FROM THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A JUST AND PERMANENT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST...HOWEVER, AFTER THE SADAT INITIATIVE, WE REALLY DOUBT THE POSSIBILITY OF A RETURN TO THAT STATEMENT, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE SEE NOTHING IN AMERICAN POLICY EXCEPT TOTAL AMERICAN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL'S AGGRESSIVENESS AND EXPANSIONISM. WE SEE NO PRESSURES ON ISRAEL. WE HEAR REPEATED STATEMENTS THAT THE US WILL NOT EXERT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. WE SEE ISRAEL LEFT
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TOTALLY FREE TO PURSUE ITS WHIMS, SAVAGELY ATTACKING ITS NEIGHBORS LIKE A RABID DOG....

J. "THE SADAT INITIATIVE HAD NO POSITIVE EFFECT ON CONDITIONS INSIDE THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES...THE ISRAELIS DEMONSTRATED (AGAINST BEGIN) BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT COMMANDO ACTION CAN REACH THEM IN THEIR HOMES, ON THEIR BEACHES, IN TEL AVIV, IN HAIFA....

K. "THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IS NO DIFFERENT FROM THE POLICY OF BEGIN, AND BEGIN'S POLICY DOES NOT DIFFER FROM THE POLICY OF YITZHAK RABIN. THEY ARE ALL ZIONISTS. HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE UNITED STATES, ISRAEL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BORN, WOULD NOT HAVE CONTINUED TO EXIST, WOULD NOT HAVE MAINTAINED ITS POLICY OF AGGRESSION AND EXPANSION...THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL ARE TACTICAL DIFFERENCES. THEY RELATE TO METHODS, NOT SUBSTANCE. THE UNITED STATES STILL REJECTS THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE -- THEIR RIGHT TO A STATE OF THEIR OWN. THIS IS CLEARLY SPELLED OUT IN THE US-ISRAELI AGREEMENT IN THE SINAI PROTOCOLS....

L. "HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE UNITED STATES, ISRAEL WOULD HAVE BEEN A BYGONE THING BY NOW." END
UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. QADDUMI SUGGESTS THE PALESTINIANS WANT A RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE IN SOUTH LEBANON, BUT IMPLIES THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THE TERMS OF THEIR CONTINUED

PRESENCE THERE. HE SAYS THE PLO "HAS NOT BEEN"
CONDUCTING CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS AND IMPLIES THE PLO
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WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THIS POSITION, IF ISRAEL
WITHDRAWS. (IN PLO'S LEXICON, "CROSS-BORDER
OPERATIONS" ARE ARMED INCURSIONS ON LAND ACROSS THE
LEBANESE-ISRAELI FRONTIER AND DO NOT INCLUDE SEA BORNE
RAIDS SUCH AS THAT ON MARCH 11. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION
TTHE PLO HAS CONDUCTED ARMED LAND INCURSIONS FROM LEBANON
INTO ISRAEL AT LEAST SINCE THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR,
ALTHOUGH IT HAS INFILTRATED INTELLIGENCE AGENTS FROM HERE.)
END CONFIDENTIAL.
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